

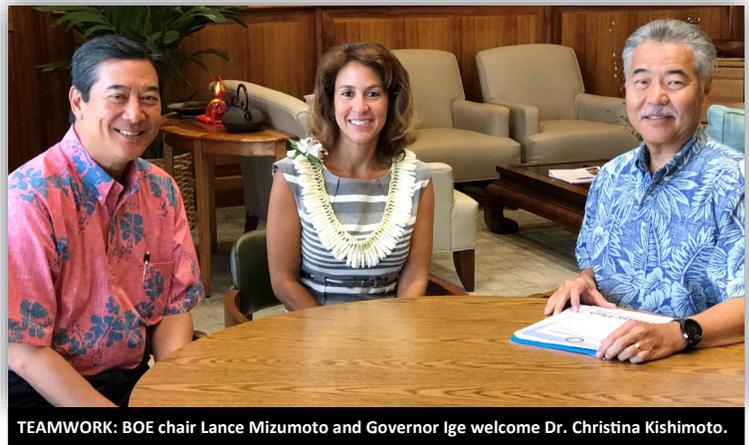


From the governor: Launching a new era for Hawai'i schools

It's a new era in many ways for Hawai'i's public schools: a new superintendent, a new four-year teachers' contract and a new school year with cooler classrooms on several islands. This issue focuses on how the governor, the Board of Education (BOE) and our new schools superintendent are working together to improve achievement for all students.

Q. Why is this an important next stage for our public schools?

A. I truly believe we'll see the greatest improvement in student learning when schools feel empowered to innovate and take responsibility for the results. We need to change our system from a culture of compliance to one where schools feel their voice matters. They need to have access to resources to design what could work best for their students and their communities. With the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the states have more authority to set their own priorities in public education. Under the former No Child Left Behind law, we had a decade of centralized, top-down decision-making. Now in Hawai'i, we can move forward with new superintendent Dr. Christina Kishimoto, the BOE, and myself all on the same page.



TEAMWORK: BOE chair Lance Mizumoto and Governor Ige welcome Dr. Christina Kishimoto.

Q. Why do you believe Dr. Kishimoto a good fit for Hawai'i?

A. She shares many core values of those of us who grew up here and have children in the public school system. She understands that public education is the great equalizer and fundamentally important so all children can pursue their dreams. Dr. Kishimoto has a track record of closing student achievement gaps and a commitment to school empowerment. She intends to get out into communities to listen and learn, and I plan to go with her for several of those visits.

Q. What progress are you seeing in "cooling the schools" and why did you get involved in the teacher contract negotiations?

A. I'm encouraged that the DOE says it plans to meet my goal of 1,000 air conditioners in the state's hottest classrooms by the end of August—and to do it in an energy-efficient way. I got involved in HSTA negotiations because they weren't making progress. I told the union and management teams we had to get this done and that we needed to focus on those issues that were most important to get a settlement. The four-year contract means we can have some labor peace and focus on improving our schools.

Q. Why are you encouraged by what you're seeing in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) school programs?

A. We know the world is changing rapidly, and our students need to think critically, communicate effectively and be able to work with others. I've been so impressed with what our students and teachers are accomplishing in coding, robotics and related STEM fields. The Kualapu'u robotics team on Moloka'i is a great example (see story on Page 4). They were fearless in the 2017 VEX IQ international competition and excelled against teams from 30 other countries. The students are a tribute to their teachers and coaches and have shown how a community can take ownership of student achievement. This is how public education can help children achieve their dreams. We also want to nurture our local talent for future careers in Hawai'i. Some of the best information tech jobs are right here in state government — in health care, human services, student information systems, our Office of Enterprise Technology Services and other agencies. We want our students to take advantage of these opportunities.

DOE on track to reach goal of cooling 1,000 classrooms

The Department of Education (DOE) is making good on the governor's promise of cooler schools for this new school year. We expect to have the 1,000 classrooms cooled by the end of August," Governor Ige said.

The \$100 million appropriated by the 2016 state Legislature has funded equipment and installation costs for air conditioning and other heat abatement measures for some of the state's hottest schools. The goal was to cool the classrooms but remain "energy neutral" to offset electrical costs and energy use. The result is an ingenious combination of cooling strategies that include solar-powered and high-efficiency AC, tinted windows, nighttime heat flushing and ceiling fans, covered walkways and awnings, heat reflective material and added trees on campuses.

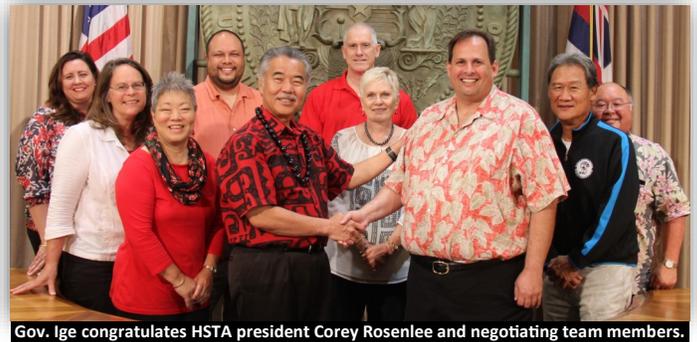


DOE official Duane Kashiwai describes 'cooling tools,' including PV/AC.

At Campbell High School, Vice Principal Shayne Greenland said in the past students and teachers coped with some classrooms approaching 100 degrees on the hottest days. DOE public works administrator Duane Kashiwai said the governor's initiative and the Legislature's appropriation made a "dramatic difference in accelerating the DOE's heat abatement program."

New teachers' contract focuses on future; HSTA gives governor an 'A'

A new four-year contract overwhelmingly ratified by Hawai'i's 13,500 public school teachers was signed last month by the governor, the teachers' union, and Board of Education members in ceremonies at the state Capitol. "I'm excited that this contract positions us to focus on the most important things over the next four years," said the governor. "As we move forward, I want to ask for your support of our new superintendent. I truly believe that she 'gets it' — that real change begins in the classroom."



Gov. Ige congratulates HSTA president Corey Rosenlee and negotiating team members.

Hawaii State Teachers Association President Corey Rosenlee praised the governor for his leadership and involvement in discussions to resolve issues. "I appreciate not only your commitment to the contract but your commitment to education," he said. Rosenlee said the contract sets the stage for future discussions on closing achievement gaps, class size and helping all students. In closing, Osa Tui, HSTA negotiations chair and McKinley High School registrar, told Governor Ige, "We were shocked at the many late nights you spent working with us. As an 'education governor,' we give you an 'A.'"

From the BOE: Making student achievement a statewide priority

If being a new schools superintendent is a tough job, then the next toughest may be serving as chair of the board that hired her. That was First Hawaiian Bank executive vice president Lance Mizumoto's task less than two years into his term at the Board of Education (BOE). Now, as the new school year begins, he and the board are looking forward to welcoming Dr. Kishimoto and providing a successful transition.

"The board was entrusted by the community to find the best candidate," he said. "Being local was one of the many factors we took into account, but it wasn't *the* (determining) factor. We feel Dr. Kishimoto has the right combination of experience, knowledge, focus, temperament and sensitivity to implement a strategic vision for education change." He said the board was also impressed with Kishimoto's ability to engage with many different community stakeholders during the selection process, and Mizumoto noted that she has experience working with diverse ethnic populations.



BOE chair Lance Mizumoto

Mizumoto said he and the board saw as one of Kishimoto's strengths that she had been the superintendent of two different school districts in two diverse states — Connecticut and Arizona — and has a national perspective on helping improve student achievement. "Her experience can bring new perspectives on how we support our schools," he said.

The top issue from the board's perspective is closing the achievement gap of different student groups, Mizumoto said. "We've made some progress, but it hasn't been enough." He said it's important to understand the scope of the challenge for the schools, including working with immigrant families, special education and low-income students, and having a shortage of qualified teachers. Mizumoto said other high priority areas for the BOE include recruitment and retention of qualified teachers, with more professional development and mentoring of first-year teachers; equity and excellence for all students; more budget transparency and accountability for how the DOE is using resources; and making education relevant to help prepare students for college and careers. Mizumoto said the statewide outreach by the Governor's ESSA team and the DOE showed him how many people care about improving education in Hawai'i. "In the two years I've been board chair, I've never received so many offers of help and support for our schools."

Dr. Christina Kishimoto: Hawai'i's new superintendent

It's late on a Sunday afternoon, and Dr. Christina Kishimoto is driving to a family gathering. But Hawai'i's new schools superintendent makes time to talk about her childhood in New York, her passion for public education and the promise she sees for the state's school system.

Kishimoto has been credited with helping to turn around struggling mainland school districts and improve graduation rates. She served as head of two school districts in Connecticut and Arizona. And with relatives on O'ahu and the Big Island, she appreciates the unique sense of community that defines Hawai'i.

"I feel we can set ourselves apart as leaders in education by having students honor their diverse cultures and who they are," she said. "This core value of appreciating our differences can help us motivate students and design schools that build on the strengths of their communities."

In fact, she said what excites her most about her new position is the commitment she sees for improving the state's schools. That's what she said "charged her up" during the job interview process. "I got a chance to hear from teachers, students, parents, community activists, business leaders and the governor," she explained. "The more I talked to people, the more I understood their concerns."

Kishimoto said she was a student in the New York City public school system in the '70s and '80s when education was in crisis. She lived in Section 8, low-income housing, the daughter of parents who migrated from Puerto Rico. "I knew there were disparities between schools, depending on your zip code. Sometime around middle school, I developed a drive to want to fix those disparities."

She went on to earn a doctorate in education administration from Columbia University and has focused on how schools can be designed to help students from any socio-economic background be successful. "School design means assessing student and community needs and figuring out what we need to do differently," she explained. "The students are still our most important constituents."

Top areas of focus for Kishimoto include:

- **School design** – Helping people understand how the school design process can improve student learning — from creating a positive school culture to structuring a classroom for student success.
- **Student voice** – Developing a positive process that incorporates more student feedback to improve what works in the classroom.
- **Teacher collaboration** – Providing more opportunities for teachers to work together to share ideas and determine how resources can best be used to shape learning.

Kishimoto described herself as a strong believer in student voice and supporting the role of teachers in improving education. "We know the central administration can provide support and policy parameters, but it's what teachers do in the classroom that make the difference. How do we make principals and teachers comfortable to take some risks and design around a school's needs without worrying if they're going to get in trouble with the central office? How do we make it okay for students to tell us what's working in an assignment and what could be better, and do it in a respectful, helpful way? And how do we make the community feel a part of the process?"



Gov. Ige with King Intermediate students at IMS 2017 STEM event.

As for the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) law, the governor's Blueprint and the DOE/BOE strategic plan, she said she hopes to clarify how they all work together. "ESSA is a federally required plan to make sure there is equitable funding based on student needs. The Blueprint provides a great vision for the future in flexibility and innovation, and the strategic plan lays out a shorter time frame of three to five years with specific goals," she explained. "All are well-developed; what we need now is an implementation plan to decide what we should focus on and how this affects each school."

Kishimoto said although she has relatives in Hawai'i, she wants people to get to know her and what she can bring to the state's school system. "I have a lot of diversity in my background, and I see the schools as a reflection of our democracy."

She admits those who know her say, "'Wow, you're pretty passionate about public education.' Many of our most successful citizens are the products of our public schools. We need to be proud of that."



"Many of our most successful citizens are products of our public schools. We need to be proud of that."

— Dr. Christina Kishimoto

New Kupuna Caregivers program ‘first in nation’

Hawai‘i became the first state in the nation to establish a Kupuna Caregivers program to help adults who work at least 30 hours a week while also providing family caregiving. The bill aims to ease caregiving costs by paying up to \$70 a day to contracted service providers, based on certain criteria and availability of funds.

Through a \$600,000 appropriation, the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) will administer the program to begin in 2018. For details, contact your county Aging and Disability Resource Center through the statewide number, 643-2372.



Gov. Ige stands with legislators and senior advocates after signing the Kupuna Caregivers bill.

Maui County: historic changes, housing and community pride

It was a busy month for Maui County with bill signings, a groundbreaking, a popular community festival and the transition of Maui Memorial Medical Center, Kula Hospital and Lāna‘i Community Hospital to Kaiser Permanente’s affiliate, Maui Health System.

On Maui July 1, the governor participated in a ceremony that marked the transfer of Maui’s state hospitals to the Maui Health System, an affiliate of Kaiser Permanente. On July 7, he also helped break ground for Hale Mahaolu Ewalu Senior Housing with executive director Roy Katsuda.

On Lāna‘i, the governor and first lady Dawn Amano-Ige shared in the fun of the Pineapple Festival, an event that honors the island’s proud plantation heritage. They met many island residents, including members of a girls’ softball team.

On Moloka‘i July 5, he signed a historic bill that reduces the blood quantum required for successorship to Hawaiian Homestead land. “This allows long-time homesteaders to keep the lease in their family,” said the governor. It was the first time a governor has signed a bill on Moloka‘i. He also met Moloka‘i’s Kualapu‘u School robotics team, who took 2nd in the 2017 VEX IQ World Championship against 272 teams from 30 countries.



(from top) At the Maui Region hospitals transition with legislators, hospital and Kaiser officials; Hale Mahaolu Housing groundbreaking with director Roy Katsuda; Governor and First Lady at the Lāna‘i Pineapple Festival; with Hawaiian Homesteaders and the Kualapu‘u robotics team on Moloka‘i.

‘Code Challenge’ launches Aug. 26

Attention, all software developers who want to improve state government: The next Hawai‘i Annual Code Challenge (HACC) kicks off Saturday, Aug. 26 at 9 a.m. at the East-West Center. State departments will present issues that could benefit from coding solutions. Teams will then have one month to develop applications, which they will present Sept. 23. The competition, conceived by Governor Ige is coordinated by the Office of Enterprise Technology Services. To enter, visit hacc.hawaii.gov.

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Governor on Facebook Live



Capitol Connection is going live — Facebook Live, that is. Be sure to like the governor on facebook.com/GovernorDavidIge to see his first session on emergency preparedness, including a potential threat from North Korea. There are more segments to come — including surprise guests! The governor wants to encourage questions, comments and suggestions for future topics to keep the community informed. Also, don’t forget to turn on your notifications for the page to get daily alerts on posts and Facebook Live events. You can also tweet the governor @govhawaii.

Capitol Connection with Gov. David Ige is a regular e-newsletter that provides updates from the State Capitol. As we work to become paperless, the newsletter is available online and via subscription. Check out the governor’s website at governor.hawaii.gov to subscribe. Also, follow the governor on Twitter and Instagram @govhawaii and check www.facebook.com/GovernorIge. (Print copies by Hawai‘i Correctional Industries)